

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes _____
no _____

Property Name: Kensey Johns' Grist Mill Inventory Number: BA-175
Address: Falls Road near Stringtown Road City: Butler Zip Code: 21023
County: Baltimore County USGS Topographic Map: Hereford
Owner: _____ Is the property being evaluated a district? _____ yes
Tax Parcel Number: _____ Tax Map Number: _____ Tax Account ID Number: _____
Project: Butler Stone Quarry Cell Tower Agency: Federal Communications Commission
Site visit by MHT staff: X no _____ yes _____ Name: _____ Date: _____
Is the property located within a historic district? X yes _____ no _____

If the property is within a district District Inventory Number: BA-2214
NR-listed district X yes Eligible district _____ yes _____ Name of District: Western Run - Belfast Road
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource X yes _____ no _____ Non-contributing but eligible in another context _____ yes _____

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district) Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible X yes _____ no _____

Criteria: _____ A _____ B X C _____ D _____ Considerations: _____ A _____ B _____ C _____ D _____ E _____ F _____ G _____ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:
Maryland Historical Trust Library, Crownsville, Maryland

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

Kensey John's Grist Mill was most recently observed and photographed in February, 2003. Its condition was largely unchanged since the preparation of the State Historic Sites Inventory Form in the library of the Maryland Historical Trust, dated September, 1976.

The property is described in the following document(s) located at the Maryland Historical Trust Library:

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form, by Catharine F. Black and James T. Wollon, Jr., September 1976

National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form, by John W. McGrain of Baltimore County Historical Society, August 17, 1971

The following observations were made during the February 2003 visit to the property:

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended X Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: _____ A _____ B _____ C _____ D _____ Considerations: _____ A _____ B _____ C _____ D _____ E _____ F _____ G _____ None

MHT Comments

James G. Gifford
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

B. Kuntz
Reviewer, NR Program

4/11/03
Date

6/20/02
Date

NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Kensey Johns' Grist Mill

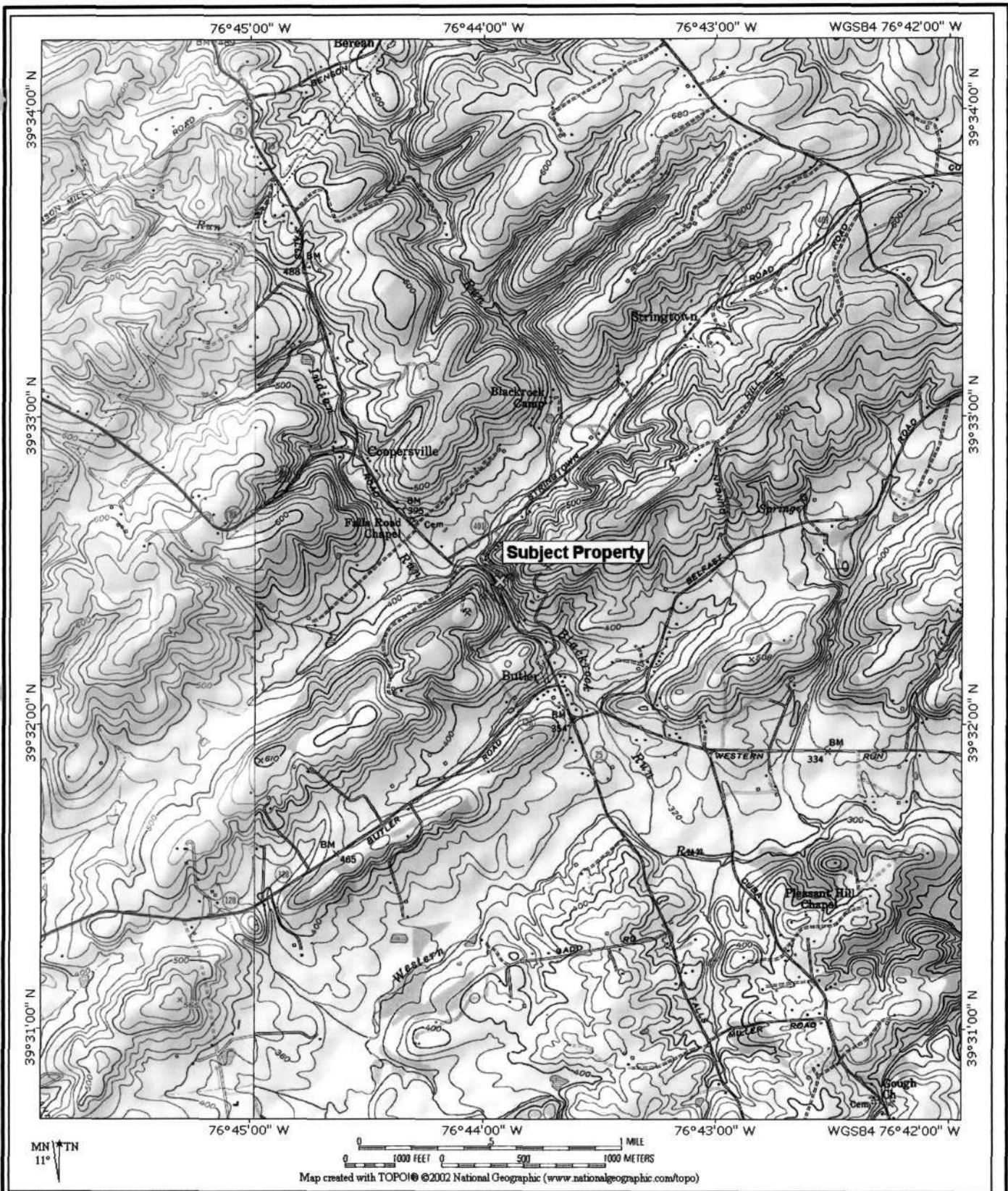
Inventory Number: BA-175

Page 2

The property is an historic grist mill reputedly dating from the 1790s. It has been well-maintained over the years. Its historic integrity is intact. As a vital element and contributing resource to the Butler community, the property is arguably a candidate for registration uer Criterion A: Events. It is certainly qualified for registration under Criterion C: Design/Construction.

Prepared by: William C. Riggs, RA

Date Prepared: 5/19/2003



SITE VICINITY MAP

Hereford Quadrangle, MD

(Dated 1991)

SCALE: As Shown



Determination of Eligibility

Kensy Johns' Grist Mill (BA-175)

Falls Road

Butler, Baltimore Co., Maryland 21023



KENSEY JOHN'S GIRST MILL

BA-175

BALTIMORE CO., MD

PHOTO BY: K. ELGIN

2/03

NEGATIVE LOG: MD SHED

PC 10 PANORAMA 11 0000

BA-175

KENSEY JOHN'S GIRST MILL
BOTTLER, MD 21023

02.03

(No. 1 BA)

13964



KENSEY JOHN'S GIRST MILL

BA-175

BALTIMORE CO., MD

PHOTO ISY: K. ELGIN

2/03

NEGATIVE LOC: MD SITPO

75 1A 00000 114 2 0007

BA-175

KENSEY JOHN'S GIRST MILL

BUTLER, MD 21023

02.03

13961

BA-175
Kensey Johns Mill (Black Rock Mill)
John McGrain, 4/18/2010
South elevation



Datestone, southeast gable end



BA-175
03017553/4

Kensey Johns' Grist Mill
East side of Falls Road
near Stringtown Rd.
Not accessible
1800

Originally known as Black Rock Mills, Kensey Johns' Mill is on the site of an earlier grist mill owned by Thomas Matthews. Matthews' widow sold it in 1794 to Richard Johns. The name of Johns' son, Kensey, appears on the datestone which gives the date 1800 as the date for the present structure. The mill operated as a mill until the 1930's. The architecture of the mill is typical of its type as demonstrated by the use of multiple doors on all storeys of the gable ends, and the single corner chimney.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA-175
MAGI# 0301755314

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Kensey Johns' Grist Mill and Store (Gray's Rocky Lodge)

AND/OR COMMON

Grist Mill Venture, Inc.**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Both sides of Falls Road near Stringtown Road

CITY, TOWN

Butler

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Grist Mill Venture, Inc. c/o Kemp Byrnes Telephone #: 828-7200

STREET & NUMBER

200 East Joppa Road

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21204**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.Baltimore County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Baltimore County Landmarks

DATE

1971☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☒ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDSBaltimore County Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Cockeysville

STATE

Maryland

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT☒ GOOD☐ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED

DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Close to the east side of the Falls Road, between it and a northerly branch of Western Run, the Kensey Johns Mill is a stone structure, three bays in length. Its north end is one and one-half storeys in height as is about half of its west front; grade falls to the south and east, allowing its south end and east front to be two and one-half storeys in height. Centered doors are in both storeys of the north end, the lower one being flanked by a 6/6 window. Another entrance is in the middle bay of the west front and a 6/6 window is in each flanking bay. Doors are centered in the principal and basement storeys of the south end, again with a single window on either side. In the south gable, 6/6 windows flank a datestone with the inscription which appears to be

Kensey
Johns
1800

but the last two digits of the date are less distinct than the name.

Only the ends of the east facade, facing the water, are of stone, the entire central portion being of frame covered with wood shingles; the absence of quoins at the inner ends of the stone east wall suggests that the frame infill replaces a missing original construction.

Stone jack arches support masonry above each opening. A stone chimney rises flush with the southwest corner of the structure. The interior of the structure was not examined.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

BA-175

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1800 (mill)

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Kensey Johns' Mill was known as Black Rock Mills. It is on the site of an earlier grist mill owned by Thomas Matthews and sold by his widow in 1794 to Richard Johns. The name of Kensey Johns, son of Richard, appears on the date stone which gives 1800 as the date for the present structure.

Operated as a mill until the 1930's, this building still contains one of the French burr millstones now used as a hearth in the lower of two apartments which have been constructed in modern times.

Across the Falls Road to the west stands a dwelling which was once the miller's home. The earliest section is believed to have been built contemporaneously with the mill. It was enlarged at least three times, but the original windows are still in place. The building had various uses: as a store, a public house and a post office. At one time it was the lodge for a summer cottage community. It is now occupied as a single family dwelling.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baltimore County Tax Assessments: 1852, 1876, 1896.

Plat of Richard Johns' estate (1873). Plat Book JWS 1 folio 153
at Land Record Office of Baltimore County.

(See Continuation Sheet #3)
CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA 4.8 acres more or less
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1 acre

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Catharine F. Black and James T. Wollon, Jr., AIA

ORGANIZATION

For Valleys Historical District Project

DATE

September 1976

STREET & NUMBER

1114 Bellemore Road

TELEPHONE

323-3798

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Continuation Sheet #1

Question #7 Continued

Gray's Rocky Lodge appears to be an early 19th century structure, originally three bays in length facing east, closely oriented to Falls Road, directly opposite the Kensley Johns Mill. The main portion of this structure is two and one-half storeys in height and measures 20'x35'. A stone chimney rises flush with its south end and the principal entrance was in its northerly bay. Typical windows are 6/6 set in wide frames with backband. Three dormers, containing 3/6 sash, are in the roof.

A one and one-half storey wing extends to the north, two bays in length and measuring 15½'x17'. A stone chimney rises flush with its north gable end.

Stone additions extend the main house one bay to the south, the wing two bays to the north. A one storey, hipped-roof enclosed porch extends in front of the two northerly bays of the main house and the southerly bay of the wing.

The house is built close to the hillside to the west, held away from it by stone retaining walls; portions of the space between the house and the retaining walls have been enclosed as service rooms; a root cellar is west of the kitchen wing, within the bank.

In sequence, the main house with its four walls, appears to have been built first and the kitchen wing added, but the entire process was probably a single construction effort, ca. 1800-1825.

The middle bay of the main house contains two entrances

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

Continuation Sheet #2

Question #7 Continued Continuation 5

centered beneath the window above; flanking bays contain a single window in each storey. Many wide window and door frames remain with their cavetto-with-astrigal backbands.

Internally the entire house is largely altered and refinished; the main house is now a single room in the first storey with a modern stone fireplace in its south wall, east of center; an open stair with 20th century detailing rises to the second floor along the west wall. No fireplace is obvious in the kitchen but it may have occupied the easterly portion of the north wall. An enclosed stair rises to the kitchen wing's second floor in the northwest corner. An enclosed winding stairway from the second floor rises to the third in the northeast corner of the main house; it appears original. In the attic are several beaded vertical-board ledge doors and a few rafters are exposed where the original attic joins the attic of the 20th century south wing; they are of straight-sawn oak, numbered and joined at the ridge with pegged mortise-and-tenon. The westerly half of the south gable has been removed but the easterly half remains with its stone chimney. Perhaps there was a pair of south chimneys originally.

BA-175

Kensey Johns' Grist Mill
and Store (Gray's Rocky
Lodge)
Valleys Historical District

Continuation Sheet #3

Question #9 Continued

Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. (Philadelphia, 1877).

Sidney, J.C. Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland. (Baltimore, 1850).

Will of Richard Johns (1806). Will Book 8, folio 29. Baltimore County Register of Wills. at Hall of Records, Annapolis.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Md.	
COUNTY: Baltimore Co.	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:

Black Rock Mill

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Falls Road, east side, between Butler Road and Stringtown Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Butler

STATE

Md.

CODE

COUNTY:

Baltimore Co.

CODE

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>		

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:

Gray's Butler Quarry Company / Gray's Rocky Lodge Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:

Falls Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Butler

STATE:

Md.

CODE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Towson C.H., Liber WPC No. 611, f. 391

STREET AND NUMBER:

Washington Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Towson

STATE

Md. 21204

CODE

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **22 approx.**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

Federal ☐State ☐County ☐Local ☐

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>			Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Original Site <input type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Stone grist mill on the east side of Falls Road, west bank of Black Roak Run, remodeled as antique shop.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century ☐
15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☐ 19th Century ☒

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric	Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Phi-		Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historic	Industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	losophy	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Agriculture	Invention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Art	Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Commerce	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Human-			
Communications	Literature	<input type="checkbox"/>	itarian	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Conservation	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Theater	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Music	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Richard Johns patented Millers Delight, 686 acres, in 1798, Liber IC No. 0, f. 460. The stone mill dated at 1806 and also called Kinsey Johns mill, still stands on west bank of Black Rock Run, east side of Falls Road above Butlers, now an antique shop associated with Grays Rocky Lodge, surrounded by Gray's Butler Quarry Company. Mr. Clay Stambaugh was operator of the antique shop in 1969 and had restored the mill from ruinous condition.

Henry C. Zouck's name appears here on the 1863 military map, but it was still Johns property until 1873 when deeded (22 acres) to Shadrack Kemp. The estate of Richard Johns was shown in Plat Book JWS No. 1, f. 153 (Towson plats), and comprised Black Rock Mill plus a mill on the north side of present Belfast Road (Shawl's or England's mill). The Black Rock Mill was reached from the west by Old North Mill Road, now Ridge Road, and a now vanished "Old Mill Road" which ran east of Black Rock Run.

Shadrack Kemp sold in 1875 to John Millender and wife, who in 1876 sold to Henry F. Zouck (The atlas shows J.H. Zouck with separate grist and saw mills.) Henry F. Zouck deeded the mill to P.G. Zouck in 1892; Alexander McCurdy acquired the mill in 1903 after default of mortgage and sold to Charles M. Mann, 1905; Mann sold to Thomas F. Gray of Virginia in 1908. Gray installed an electric generator and motors, c. 1910. Mrs. Gray baked samples of bread from Black Rock flour in square pans and Mr. Gray distributed them as far off as Towson. When the flour business declined, he went into quarrying on his own property and in the surrounding area and opened a summer resort and motel, ~~History~~ History Trails, June 1971, p. 2f.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"The Era of the Gristmills," History Trails, June 1971.

Towson plat book ~~WPS~~ JWS No. 1, f. 153, "Plat of Black Roak -owned by late Richard Johns."

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	0	'	"		0	'	"	
NE	0	'	"		0	'	"	
SE	0	'	"		0	'	"	
SW	0	'	"		0	'	"	

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: John W. McGrain	
ORGANIZATION B.C. Historical Society	DATE Aug. 17, 1971
STREET AND NUMBER: 9811 Van Buren Lane	
CITY OR TOWN: Cockeysville	STATE Md. 21030
	CODE

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



BA-175

KENSEY JOHN'S GRIST
MILL AND STORE

Jim Wollon
1978

W

✓